



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

P.O. Box 16 ~ Majuro ~ Marshall Islands ~ 96960
Tel. No. (692) 625-5327 Email: sechhs.rmi@gmail.com



20 December 2019

UPDATED Measles International Travel Advisory
Protection Against Measles Importation to RMI

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) hereby issues this **UPDATED** International Travel Advisory due to the current measles outbreaks now occurring in many countries. RMI is highly susceptible to measles introduction due to low immunity coverage of less than 90%, Vitamin A deficiency and stunting in 35% of children under 5. Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily from person to person through the air, via breathing, coughing and sneezing and impacts both children and adults. Every case of measles on average infects 12 to 18 non-immune people exposed to those infected individuals.

If the measles virus is imported to RMI, transmission of measles will spread immediately and rapidly. Therefore, the Ministry is requiring all persons traveling to and from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to abide by the following requirements

Outbound International Travelers: Effective Immediately

- **RMI Citizens living in RMI and Foreign residents 6 months up to 62 years of age traveling internationally from RMI** must provide an official certificate or document that shows proof of an up-to-date measles vaccination or measles immunity from a health care provider before exiting the RMI, **no exceptions** unless contraindicated or exempted by a doctor in writing. Failure to comply will result in exit refusal.
- **All non-residents, including Marshallese citizens traveling on one-way tickets out of the RMI,** do not need to show proof of measles vaccination or measles immunity.

Inbound International Travelers, including all RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents: Effective Immediately

- **All passengers** ages 6 months up to 62 years of age must provide an official certificate or document that shows proof of an up-to-date measles vaccination or measles immunity from a health care provider, **no exceptions** unless contraindicated or exempted by a doctor in writing. Failure to comply will result in entry refusal.

- Persons suffering from contagious disease, and persons who have been exposed to such disease, may be isolated and quarantined in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Marshall Islands Revised Code Chapter 1 Section 106 of the Public Health and Sanitation.
- All up-to-date vaccinated persons entering RMI will need to “watch and monitor” their own health. Measles symptoms typically include:
 - high fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
 - cough
 - coryza or runny nose
 - conjunctivitis or red, watery eyes
 - rash (develops 3-5 days after symptoms begin)
- Any travellers who develop these symptoms must seek medical care immediately. Public Health officials contact information will be distributed at the ports of entry. These officials will require the ill patients to inform them of their recent travels to measles affected areas, and these officials will need to know whether or not the travelers received a measles vaccination.

Domestic Travel between Majuro and Kwajalein is unrestricted and does not require proof of measles vaccination or measles immunity.

The most effective protection from measles is getting vaccinated. Protect yourself and your loved ones from measles. For further information, please contact the following:

Majuro

Dr. Tom Jack – 456-0964
 Dr. Aina Garstang – 455-4031
 Public Health – 625-6631/32/33
 ER – 625-4144

Ebeye

Dr. Cho Cho Thein – 235-7289
 Dr. Jake Nasa – 235-4503
 ER – 329-8029/8030

Outer Islands

Nearest Health Center
 Mx. Arata Nathan – 455-5817

Respectfully,



Jack Niedenthal
 Secretary of Health and Human Services